

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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~~SECRET/RYBAT/PBSUCCESS~~

Chief of Station, Guatemala
LINCOLN

16 June 1954

Alfhem Arms Shipment

Attached for your information is a comprehensive report on the Alfhem Arms Shipment. Supplements will be prepared as further knowledge on the disposition and description of the arms is obtained.

JEROME C. DUNBAR

JCD/EAF/eaf
14 June 1954

Attachment

Distribution

- 2 — Guatemala
- 2 — Washington
- 3 — LINCOLN

~~SECRET/RYBAT/PBSUCCESS~~

~~SECRET~~/RYBAT

Routing Form

Doc. No.:

Date:

Indicate title of person to take action and that of the originator. Place comments there under by numbered paragraphs. Initial in center of page and draw a line across the page and forward. Each recipient is to repeat above procedure until action completed and ready for filing. This cover-sheet must be retained with enclosure.

TO:

FROM:

DATE:

c/p
c/BOC
cpm

[]
This an excellent example of careful precise analysis
+ reporting plus good source work — []

This is a fine example of the type of analysis
we need in our operations. This should serve
as a basic rpt and supplements program hereafter
on any further disposition or description of these
items. Send copies to Hqrs, G-2 and C/8m.

[]

[]
Signature

[]

dc/p
c/p

[]

Pouch

[]

~~SECRET~~/RYBAT

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TO:

FROM:

DATE:

[]

[]

- Pls make any changes you think necessary - will be in at 2 and stamp & put the stuff together.

[] A very good start -

"Ordinance" is a decree or law -
"ordnance" is the military term

Revised
Page 2
Page 5 gath

This is more detailed than I had in mind but we can use it to check as other Arms etc reports received. Since it is so detailed, I would address it to Exec instead of C/P (since Exec requested it). Let him decide whether the boss will have time to read all this.

EXEC
[]

Nice work - forward as is, with above correction. Note GUYIT report on distribution to zones (TR file)

~~SECRET~~ RISK
RECLASSIFIED

10 June 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: C/P

SUBJECT : Alfhem Arms Shipment

1. The attachment gives a chronological summary of reports from all sources, dating from 15 May to 27 May. In general, these reports are sketchy and contain little precise information as to what arms arrived and where they are stored.

2. The following report is taken for the most part from the Army Attache (R-79-54), the Chief of the Army Mission (HGG-A-1162) and [] however, it also includes pertinent information reported in the attachment.

a. General

[] states that the equipment is of Czech, German and U.S. manufacture, mostly the first two. Army sources state that all arms are of German manufacture. The arms are used, but appear to be in excellent condition. All weapons were shipped with a large quantity of spare parts. Lt. Col. GORDILLO, G-2, advised the Army Attache that no technical advisors would be necessary, although there have been several reports to the contrary, one from Toni via SEMANTIC, stating that a Czech radio technician had arrived in Guatemala City on 18 May and that 100 more technicians were expected. No books of instructions arrived with the equipment.

b. Cargo

2,000 tons. Total number of freight cars used is 125, each with a capacity of 20 tons, or 2,500 tons if each car were filled to capacity. The figure of 125 is that of the Army Attache. It could not be independently determined from the attached summary how many railroad cars arrived in Guatemala City, since a description sufficient to identify each arrival is not given.

c. Distribution

Shipment to the 1st and 2nd Regiments and the Maestranza Ordnance Depot at Fort Matamoros was completed by 24 May 1954. The Army Attache states that the distribution was limited to these three places. ESCONSON-2 also reported that the cargo was being trucked to the 1st and 2nd regiments in equal portions.

~~SECRET~~

-2-

1st Regiment—Guardia de Honor - 40% of total shipment

Both Army sources state that the same type of equipment was unpacked here as was at the 2nd Regiment.

2nd Regiment—Base Militar - 40% of total equipment

All arms are stored at the First Rifle Company's barracks, which is a cement building with a tile roof. The place to which the First Company was removed is not known.

Rifles, 7mm Mauser	large number
LMG's, Bipod-type	—
MG's, 7mm, tripod	—
Rifles, automatic, 7mm, 10 shots per clip	—
Anti-tank guns, 37mm	—
Howitzers, artillery, Between 65-75mm	100 seen unpacked. [] gives total of 100.
Mortars, Between 65- 81mm (crated in pyramidal boxes)	many
Hand grenades, black	large number
Anti-tank mines, Teller, 30 per case. ¹	—

Maestranza Ordnance Depot—Fort Matamoros - 20% of total equipment.

3. Planes—The Army Attache states that no planes were included in the shipment. The Army Mission states that no vehicles of any type were unloaded at the 2nd Regiment. [] states that no planes were included in the shipment. However, a report from the []
[], evaluated B-5, states that 20 bombardment aircraft were scheduled for delivery to Guatemala within 15-20 days of 14 May. A report from the [] states that disassembled and crated aircraft arrived at Barrios between 2-8 May. Rumours indicated that 15 MIG-15's were among the Alfhem shipment. [] reports that 14 knocked-down aircraft were among the shipment. SEMANTIC states that 5 Spitfires and 4 huge crates, presumably containing fuselages, were in the shipment. [] reported that 10 combat aircraft were among the shipment.

1 These were crated in the "Champagne" cases. SEMANTIC reports that these boxes were being transferred to homes of government leaders and supporters.

2 Name unknown. The WW card reads [] Sensitive source of RUFUS, identified merely as [] in RUFUS' code. Class B source."

4. Ammunition—SEMANTIC reports from two sources (unknown) that no munitions arrived aboard the Alfhem and that the ammunition is expected in another shipment on 20-21 May aboard a British ship. Guatemala Station commented that it believed some ammunition had already arrived and that the ammunition ship to which SEMANTIC was referring might be the SS SAJMA, mentioned in DIR 01401. Both US Army sources have described the quantity of ammunition as "tons and tons." It appears safe to assume that ammunition was included in the shipment, since [] also reported that 700 cases of rifle ammunition has arrived. [] reported that a German company was to ship 80 tons of rifle ammunition to Puerto Barrios in June.

5. Tanks—The Army Attache reports that there were no armored cars, no tanks, no vehicles of any type. The Army Mission states that "no armored cars, tanks, or vehicles of any type were unloaded at the 2nd Regiment." [] reports that the second ship will bring tanks and armored cars of British manufacture. The [] reports that disassembled and crated tanks arrived between 2-8 May. SEMANTIC reports that light war tanks arrived. Station Guatemala commented on SEMANTIC's report that at least 4 light tanks had arrived in Guatemala City and were being rapidly put into operation. [] reported that "some tanks" had arrived. ESCHER and ESAGE, evaluated B-2, reported that 35 light tanks were included in the shipment. [] stated that 10 tanks arrived in the shipment.

6. Miscellaneous—No communications equipment and no anti-personnel mines were reported to have arrived. ESODIC, evaluated F-3, reported the arrival of radar equipment. DIR 01809 stated that the owner of the ALFHEM has already furnished copies of bill of lading and other pertinent correspondence re the chartering and voyage. There is no evidence in the files to indicate whether or not these papers were ever received and whether they were the authentic papers or merely those prepared for general consumption.

There are numerous reports regarding the arrival of two additional ships, one having reportedly left Stettin before the Alfhem and supposedly seen at Barrios on the evening of 14 May. DIR 01401 reports the SS SAJMA sighted off the coast of Cuba 18 May. However, no further information has been received on additional ships. It is possible that there were two other ships due, which might have been called off for a variety of reasons.

[]
10 June 1954

SECRET

ALFHEM ARMS SHIPMENT

Evalua- tion	Date of Report	Kind of Arms	Quantity	Comments and/or Location Delivered
B-5	14 May	Bombardment Aircraft	20	Scheduled for delivery to Guatemala within 15-20 days.
7	15 May	Armament	2,000 tons	Puerto Barrios
7	15 May	Rifle Ammo in cases	80 tons	German company to ship to Puerto Barrios in June.
7	16 May	Armament	2,000 tons	Arrived on Alfhem at Puerto Barrios, 1500, 15 May. Unloaded by 1800.
39	16 May		Ship capacity 4,850 tons	Swedish vessel from Stettin to Dakar, last sighted off Brest.
38	16 May			Questions capability of unloading in three hours.
ale	16 May	Reportedly Czech origin.	2,000 tons	Puerto Barrios
3	17 May			Believed Swedish, no papers. Cargo to fill unloaded night 15 May. Unloading probably finished by 19 May. All cargo may go forward in 1 load. Weighing delayed operation. Shipment may be that which Mar- tinez purchased in Europe.
16	17 May		1 train load	Departed for Guat City (estimated 200-500 tons)
7	17 May		2,000 tons 5 flat cars 2 box cars	Left night 16 May for Guat City. Alfhem radioed shipping agent May 13. Sanchez & Martinez spent previous week at Barrios. 50 guards during unloading. Estimate 5-10 days to unload. Seamen reported two more ships to leave Stettin.
7	17 May	Conical-shaped boxes, 9 ft. high, 2 x 3 ft base	7 flat cars 3 box cars	
7	17 May	Czech arms	2,000 tons	
7	18 May			Cutierrez states second shipment of arms to be sent to Tela, Honduras.
7	18 May	large grates [Opinion: heavy field pieces]	7 flat cars	Left for Guat City at 9:30 am 17 May. 100 rr cars need to transport cargo; thus 8-10 trains needed. Ultimate destination arms probably close to "Acetuna."

Item	Kind of Arms	Quantity	Comments and/or Location Delivered
14	Rifle Ammo	80 tons	German firm to forward to Guat in June.
F-2 and F-3	Crates on 7 flat cars are 9ft high, 3 ft x 3 ft. top round, diameter 18 in. pyramidal shape. possibly mortars. triangular side marking.	785 lbs ea.	Seamen report another ship due in two days and third when second leaves. Estimate 7 days to unload ship. No signs of ammo unloaded as yet. Trains leaving Barrios every 2-3 hours, departing as loaded.
18	Unknown	3 box cars	Due to arrive Guat City midnight
18	Crates 3 ft x 6ft at base. Diamond, not triangular markings.	7 flat & 3 box cars	Second ship to leave Stettin in week or 10 days. Name believed start with "T." Third ship leave Stettin when second returns that port. Ship owned by Thorden line and registered in Sweden.
18			Due arrive Guat City between 1700-1800 17 May. Train left 9:30 pm. Cars will be spotted freight yard "La Garcon."
18		7 flat cars 10 box cars 8 box cars	Unloaded immediately upon arrival La Garcon. Arrived Guat City 10pm 17 May. Expected arrive Guat City morning 18 May. Crates on 7 flat cars believed taken to Base Militar.
18			As of 17 May 200 tons unloaded from ship. Ten loaded freight cars for Guat City may have been sent to Esquintla Valley between Guat and Honduras.
18			Attempt command Alfhem withdraw from Barrios. Attempt verify rumor of 2 additional ships. Have arrived Guat City.
18		20 carloads 8 carloads	Due morning 18 May. Previously described—observed in streets, probably en route La Aurora. First train carried 26 guards. Endeavoring photograph Alfhem from air.
18	Conical boxes		
18	Conical boxes marked with diamond & initials D.S.C.O.	Gross wt. 390 kilos	
19	Aircraft, tanks large crates (presumably containing aircraft replacement parts war materiel	10	Disassembled and crated, arrived Barrios between 2-8 May. Arrived Barrios 12 May aboard Dutch ship.

[Handwritten note:] Hamburg, states W. German ship with 100 tons of arms first stop Barrios. (2 claims ship seen en route to Rico 15 May. Arrived Barrios 15 May aboard Dutch ship.)

Evalua- tion	Date of Report	Kind of Arms	Quantity	Comments and/or Location Delivered
23 p	20 May			Mate of Alfhem stated another ship departed Stettin 3 wks before Alfhem, but was passed en route. Whereabouts unknown. Destination changes of Alfhem always two days out of port.
23	20 May	Boxcars	10	Leaving Barrios for Guat City 2200, 19 May
29	20 May	Train with 8 cars		Leaving Barrios for Guat City 1200, 20 May
10 IC Info ates May)	20 May	Estimated: rifles 10,000 Rock-Rock cannons (sev barrels) Bazookas, light tanks, anti-tank weapons, super gun mg's, revolvers & automatics		Two sources report Alfhem did not bring ammo. Ammo expected arrive 20-21 May aboard British ship. Station comments: believe some ammo already arrived, at least 4 light tanks arr'd, capital, being rapidly put into operation, ammo ship may refer to SS Salma of DM 01401.
11 IC 300-	20 May	Railway cars 6		Loaded with Alfhem equipment on siding between Tenedores and Finca Santa Ines de Galluser.
29	20 May			Estimate 2-3 days more for discharge. Second engineer states two more vessels to follow similarly loaded, one departed 3 wks before Alfhem, seen at Barrios eve 14 May
29 NE I)	20 May	Knocked-down air-craft tanks 9ft high py-ramidal cases	14 some at least 50	Extra 197 with 8 cars special cargo, explosion at Castaneda, pilot cars ordered. These 8 cars bring total up to 42 cars already in Guat City. Estimates 1/2 cargo already discharged. Entire movement of cargo would require more than 80 cars.
12 La IC	20 May			Czech radio tech arrived Guat City 18 May. Govt expecting arrival of 100 more technicians.
18 IC	21 May			Material taken from railyards, Guat City, to Matamoros night 18 May. Quantity, description, unknown.
24 Lass Id um	21 May			No concrete info re types of arms.
16	21 May			Guat ordies in Mexico say 30-40% shipment sent to Guat City--rest near Honduran border.
28 IX	22 May	Boxcars	8	Gross ton 4,900; dead weight 8,100. Gives further details of the ship (Alfhem). Left Barrios for Guat City 0600, 21 May.

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